



NEWS RELEASE

18-141

Date: Monday, July 30, 2018**District:** 8 – Riverside/San Bernardino**Contact:** terri.kasinga@dot.ca.gov**Phone:** (909) 383-4631 or (951) 232-4268**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Caltrans Emergency Work to Restore State Routes 74 and 243 #CranstonFire

SAN BERNARDINO – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) began work this weekend to repair and restore State Routes 74 and 243 (SR 74 and SR 243) as a result of the Cranston Fire. The wildland fire was started by an arsonist on July 25 and has burned over 13,300 acres and is 57% contained in the Idyllwild, Lake Hemet and surrounding communities. SR's 74 and 243 have been closed since the beginning of the incident. The portion of SR 243 from Banning to Idyllwild reopened for population yesterday to residents only (with proof of identification). SR 74 remains closed between Lake Hemet and south of Mountain Center.

Caltrans began work this weekend with a Director's Order (Emergency Contract) with Ames Construction, who began making repairs to burnt guardrail, signs, delineation, slopes and culverts. The contractor is working 24/7 to complete the work. The cost of the Director's Order is currently \$5 million. The cost is expected to increase due to the extent of the damages.

Caltrans District 8 Maintenance crews have been on scene providing traffic control since the fire began. This weekend, Maintenance Tree Crews from Caltrans District's 8 (Riverside/San Bernardino), 11 (San Diego) and 12 (Orange County) felled over 300 burned trees next to state right of way to allow for safe access and work conditions for the contractor and eventually the traveling public, once the routes reopen. Caltrans will be able to better assess the reopening of SR's 74 and 243 later this week based on the progression of the work. Information and photos will be provided when available. Once the routes reopen, the repairs will continue with Ames Construction crews providing traffic control (flagging or pilot car) for approximately two months.



Caltrans District's 8, 11 and 12 Tree Crews worked to fall over 300 trees this weekend on SR's 74 and 243 #CranstonFire

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NEWS RELEASE

Weather: <http://www.weather.gov/>

Road Closures: <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/> and <http://www.rctlma.org/trans/>

Riverside County Emergency Management: <http://www.rvcfire.org>

San Bernardino National Forest closure: <https://goo.gl/9hh7ef>

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